

Message Text

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SUBJ: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION

IN AN OCTOBER 9 EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "KISSINGER'S M.E. TOUR", THE TIMES OF MALTA (CONSERVATIVE) COMMENTS ON THE OIL CRISIS AS FOLLOWS: "DR. HENRY KISSINGER, UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE, BEGINS ANOTHER VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY. HE IS TO VISIT SEVEN COUNTRIES IN AS MANY DAYS IN YET ANOTHER BID TO SPEED UP AGREEMENT FOR THE HOLDING OF A FULL MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. DR. KISSINGER WAS ORIGINALLY TO SPEND ONLY FOUR DAYS IN THE MIDDLE EAST BUT HAS ADDED THREE MORE COUNTRIES TO HIS ITINERARY WHICH NOW INCLUDES TWO LEADING OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES, SAUDI ARABIA AND ALGERIA.

DR. KISSINGER'S TASK HAS NOT BEEN MADE ANY EASIER BY THE LATEST THREAT SUPRISINGLY COMING FROM EGYPT. PRESIDENT SADAT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT OIL PRODUCING STTES, AMONG WHOM ARE SEVEAL ARAB COUNTRIES, SHOULD USE THE HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY THEY ARE AMASSING FROM THE INFLATED PRICES OF OIL AS A POLITICAL WEAPON IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY HAD USED THE SUPPLY OF OIL NOT SO LONG AGO.

THIS STATEMENT IS MOST UNCALLED FOR. IT COMES AT A TIME WHEN WESTERN NATIONS, INDEED ALL NATIONS WHO MUST PURCHASE OIL TO LIVE, ARE URGING THAT THE MONEY SO COLLECTED SHOULD BE RECYCLED FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE UNDERDEVELOPED

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NATIONS TO WHICH THE ARABS PAY SO MUCH LIP-SERVICE. THE WESTERN

INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES MAY WELL HAVE TO AGREE ON A COMMON
NEGOTIATING POSITION WITH THE OIL PRODUCERS." BIRN

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